

STOUGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025, @ 6:30 P.M.  
HYBRID MEETING IN CARNEGIE ROOM  
& VIA ZOOM



PRESENT: Phil Caravello, City Council Representative; Lora Klitzke, President; Jean Ligocki; Brandon Maly; Sharon Meilahn Bartlett; Christine Melland; Trista Richards; Katie Roberts (virtual); Mande Shecterle, Stoughton Area School District Representative; Siri Vienneau, Student Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Ramsey, Library Director; Sarah Monette, Administrative Assistant; Mary Ostrander, Children's Librarian

- I. CALL TO ORDER. 6:32 P.M. by President Lora Klitzke
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA & CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW. Klitzke moved item XII.A. *OLD BUSINESS: New Board members Phil Caravello, Brandon Maly, and Christine Melland---welcome and introductions* to immediately follow item III. *Consent Agenda.*
- III. CONSENT AGENDA. *Motion to approve:* Meilahn Bartlett. *Second:* Roberts. *Vote:* 8-0.
- IV. NEW BOARD MEMBERS PHIL CARAVELLO, BRANDON MALY, AND CHRISTINE MELLAND---WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS. Everyone introduced themselves.

*[Ligocki arrived at 6:33 P.M.]*

- V. RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES. Ramsey explained that he had gotten a gift certificate to Ink Cap Books for Vienneau, in honor of her three years of service on the board.
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD. None.
- VII. CORRESPONDENCE. Ramsey shared a thank you from the Juneteenth committee, a thank you to Amanda Bosky, Adult Services Librarian, from the Stoughton Wellness Coalition, for participating in their Reality Maze; an email from the Norwegian-American Genealogical Center and Naeseth Library describing their positive experience helping people with Norwegian genealogy questions at Syttende Mai.

*[Vienneau arrived at 6:36 P.M.]*

- VIII. EDUCATION UPDATES. Meilahn Bartlett shared a post about the Madison Public Library's non-searchable walk-in collections. Ramsey commented that Stoughton also has such a collection in the form of our Lucky Day books and DVDs.
- IX. BOARD IN-SERVICE: Ostrander presented the Library's Summer Library Program for kids ages 0-10

*[Ostrander left at 6:58 PM]*

- X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.
  - A. Statistics for April 2025. Ramsey presented.

- B. Administration report. In addition to his written report, Ramsey shared that the HVAC replacement project is *mostly* done; they just have to finish setting the controls. A federal judge in Rhode Island has ordered a halt to the dismantling of IMLS. DPI got half the expected award, which is enough to keep DPI itself functioning, but SCLS does not expect *any* LSTA money this year and is looking for other sources of funding for things like Trustee Training Week.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

- A. Finance: did not meet.  
B. Personnel: did not meet.  
C. Planning: did not meet.  
D. Policies: did not meet.

XII. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. Report from ad hoc Student Trustee Recruitment Committee with recommendation for appointment of new student trustee. The committee said the decision was extremely difficult, but they recommend Libby Phillips as the 2025-26 Student Trustee. *Motion to appoint Libby Phillips as Student Trustee*: Klitzke. *Second*: Meilahn Bartlett. *Vote*: 9-0.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. Report on results of collection diversity audit. Ramsey presented. The Ingram representative said that Stoughton was in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for diversity among the libraries they have audited. 19% of Stoughton's collection qualifies as inclusive. We are weakest in Middle Eastern and Jewish interest, which tells us where to strengthen our buying. Meilahn Bartlett asked about assessing the children's picture book collection for women authors and female presence in the stories. Ligocki asked, Now that we have this information, what do we *do* with it? Ramsey pointed out that it informs purchasing. Ligocki asked how it's going to inform the strategic plan, how we're going to educate the public, what we're going to do on social media? Meilahn Bartlett pointed out that the Juneteenth celebration, at which the Library will have a presence, would be a great place to showcase the diversity of the Library's collection, particularly its strength in books of Black interest. She also asked about putting a visual marker on the books that we purchase as a result of the audit. (We have done that for books we bought with grants from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's East Asian and African Departments.) Roberts suggested consulting community members for suggestions. Shecterle pointed out that we need to be careful about how we label books; people may not be comfortable right now being seen with a book that has a label pointing out its inclusivity, and any labeling also carries the danger of pigeon-holing. Meilahn Bartlett said that the school district has "Belonging" as one of its focuses. Melland remarked that the Friends of the Library's mini-golf event was actually a great way to showcase the collection and get people to look at shelves they might not otherwise see. The Board is glad we did the audit and pleased with the results.

*[At 7:35 P.M., the power went out for five seconds. Roberts was absent from the meeting for approximately ten minutes while the Wi-Fi router rebooted.]*

- B. Nomination and election of Board Officers: President and Vice President. Motion to elect Lora Klitzke as President: Richards. Second: Ligocki. Ramsey asked three times if there were any other nominations. Vote: 7-0, Klitzke abstaining.

*[Roberts returned at 7:47 P.M.]*

*Motion to elect Ligocki as Vice President: Meilahn Bartlett. Second: Caravello. Ramsey asked three times if there were any other nominations. Vote: 8-0, Ligocki abstaining.*

- C. Discussion of 2025-26 committee assignments. Committee assignments are the prerogative of the President. Klitzke said she would be emailing everyone to ask about their preferences in the very near future.

XIV. PENDING AGENDA ITEMS.

- A. Reminder for standing committees to review, and possibly report on, their progress toward the annual Board Goals throughout the year.  
B. Discussion of additional funding sources for library programming and operations.  
C. Discussion of General Fund balance.  
D. Review of goals related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in 2023-2026 Strategic Plan

- XV. ADJOURNMENT. *Motion to adjourn at 7:52 P.M.: Ligocki. Second: Maly. Vote: 9-0.*

Minutes taken by Sarah Monette.